

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059809

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OCON

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

REF: DAMASCUS 1182

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP
ON SUBJECT ORGANIZATION, WHICH YOU MAY PASS TO SYRIAN
PROTOCOL IN RESPONSE TO THEIR INQUIRY.

2. INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL IS A PRIVATE, NON-
PROFIT ORGANIZATION CREATED ON BASIS OF 1974 CONFERENCE OF
AMERICAN INDIANS CONVENED TO CONSIDER "REPRESSION OF THE
INDIAN PEOPLE IN THE U.S." THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZA-
TION ARE REPORTEDLY (1) TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON
THE CONDITIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND (2) TO GAIN
INTERNATIONAL STATUS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN GRANTED CATEGORY 2
STATUS AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION UNDER THE UN.

3. THE COUNCIL HAS HELD AT LEAST THREE CONFERENCES SINCE
ITS INCEPTION, THE LATEST BEING IN GENEVA LAST SEPTEMBER.

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SINCE THAT TIME, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP HAVE
REPORTEDLY MADE A SERIES OF VISITS TO COUNTRIES WITHIN
EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE. THE ORGANIZATION CLAIMS THE

AFFILIATION OF MORE THAN 90 TRIBES BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR
WHETHER THIS REPRESENTS TIES WITH TRIBAL LEADERSHIPS OR
REFLECTS THE TRIBAL AFFILIATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO BELONG

TO THE COUNCIL.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO INDICATE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
THAT USG HAS NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO VISIT BY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES AND WILL EXTEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE
DUE AMCITS IF THEY SHOULD CALL DURING VISIT TO SYRIA. VANCE

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